

Message Text

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ML

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR OF CIVIL
AVIATION OF MALI CONCERNING AIRPORT SAFETY

REF: STATE 212490

1. PER REFTEL PARA 2, CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION MOUSSA MAIGA TO DISCUSS MALIAN PROVISIONS FOR AIRPORT SAFETY AND POSITION ON MENTIONED CONVENTIONS.

2. MR. MAIGA AFFIRMED THAT THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS COGNIZANT OF AND CONCERNED OVER THREATS TO THE SAFETY OF AIR TRAVELERS POSED BY HIJACKERS. WHILE THE GOM IS INFORMED ON THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM, THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED, THE MATERIAL MEANS AT GOM DISPOSAL PRECLUDE EQUIPPING THE AIRPORTS WITH THE LATEST DEVICES. HOWEVER, THE SECURITY SERVICE, WHICH ACTUALLY PROVIDES THE AIRPORT GUARDS, WAS VERY WELL-ORGANIZED TO PROTECT PLANES ON THE GROUND AS WELL AS DEAL WITH CROWD CONTROL AND SCREENING OF PASSENGERS, AND WORKS IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH THE OFFICE OF CIVIL AVIATION TO PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

3. ACCORDING TO THE MFA LEGAL DIVISION, MALI HAS RATIFIED BOTH THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS.

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4. OUR ASSESSMENT OF AIRPORT SECURITY AT BAMAKO-SENOU AIRPORT IS IN GENERAL FAVORABLE. PEOPLE IN THE WAITING ROOM OF THE AIRPORT HAVE NO CHANCE OF CROSSING THROUGH THE IMMIGRATION/ CUSTOMS AREA TO THE PLANES WITHOUT SECURITY SERVICE PERMISSION, AND MONITORING IS THOROUGH. SECURITY IS LIGHTER IN TERMS OF PEOPLE MOVING ONTO THE TARMAC FROM THE OUTSIDE, AS WELL AS IN TERMS OF THE RESTRICTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSITING PASSENGERS BETWEEN THE PLANE AND THE TERMINAL. OUR ASSESSMENT, IS THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DIFFICULT, BUT POSSIBLE, FOR SCREENED AND UNSCREENED PERSONS TO MINGLE.

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